

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Barbara Beerhalter	Chair
Cynthia A. Kitlinski	Commissioner
Norma McKanna	Commissioner
Robert J. O'Keefe	Commissioner
Darrel L. Peterson	Commissioner

In the Matter of Northwestern Bell Telephone
Company's Proposed Tariff to Discontinue
Operator Services to Local Exchange Carriers

ISSUE DATE: May 2, 1988

DOCKET NOS. P-421/M-87-815
P-421/M-87-816

In the Matter of Northwestern Bell
Discontinuing to Offer Local and IntraLATA
Operator Handled Conference Service

ORDER APPROVING PROPOSED FILING
FORMAT

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On April 1, 1988 the Commission issued its ORDER REQUIRING REVISION OF COMPANY'S FILING PROCEDURES in the above-captioned dockets. In that Order the Commission required Northwestern Bell Telephone Company (Northwestern Bell or the Company) to meet with technical and legal staff from the Commission and the Department of Public Service (the Department) to develop a new format for its filings.

On April 11 the Company submitted the attached document, labelled Attachment 1, which illustrates the format developed in consultation with Commission and Department staff. The Company stated that it intended to use the format for all filings submitted over the signature of Arnold A. Albrecht, General Manager - Regulatory.

The Department recommended acceptance of the format and recommended that it be used for all filings, whether or not they appeared over Mr. Albrecht's signature. The Department also recommended that the Company be required to cite the statute applicable to each filing.

Further consultation between the Company and Commission and Department staff resulted in a joint proposal that the standard format be used in all filings signed by the General Manager of Regulatory Affairs, without specifying that person's name.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Commission finds that the standard format set forth in Attachment 1 meets the concerns expressed in the April 1 Order. The new format is clear and informative. Furthermore, it is immediately recognizable as an official filing. This is important, given the large volume of correspondence received by the Commission and the Department, to prevent filings from being inadvertently classified as correspondence.

The Commission finds that the format should be used for all filings submitted over the signature of the General Manager of Regulatory Affairs.

Finally, the Commission concludes that the format's inclusion of a space labelled POLICY REFERENCES: (IF APPLICABLE) is sufficient for purposes of citing any statutes or regulations applicable to the filing.

The Commission will therefore approve the new format and direct that it be used in all future filings.

ORDER

1. The filing format developed by Northwestern Bell in consultation with Commission and Department staff, attached hereto as Attachment 1, is approved and shall be used by the Company for all future filings submitted over the signature of the General Manager of Regulatory Affairs.
2. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Mary Ellen Hennen
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)